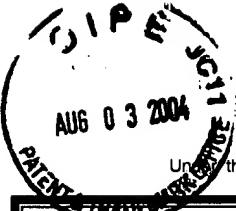


08-04-04

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PTO/SB/30 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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## REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35. U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000 provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Serial No.	09/682,655
Filing Date	October 2, 2001
First Named Inventor	Shmulevich et al.
Group Art Unit:	5246
Examiner Name	Patel, Ashokkumar B
Atty. Docket No.	VIGN1330-1

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

### 1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a.  Previously submitted
  - i.  Consider the amendment (s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed on \_\_\_\_\_ (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
  - ii.  Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b.  Enclosed
  - i.  Preliminary Amendment
  - ii.  Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
  - iii.  Information Disclosure Statement, PTO 1449 and References from PCT Search Report
  - iv.  Other **Reply to Office Action Dated May 3, 2004**

### 2. Miscellaneous

- a.  Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a.  **The Director is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 for the pendency of this application.**
  - i.  **RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)**
  - ii.  Additional Claims Fee Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17
  - iii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b.  **Check in the amount of \$770.00 is enclosed.**
- c.  Authorized to deduct \$ \_\_\_\_\_ From Deposit Account 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

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### SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Ari G. Akmal	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	51,388
Signature		Date	August 3, 2004

### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail No. EV516703561US to Addressee in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Name (Print/Type)	Katherin Cope		
Signature		Date	August 3, 2004

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Assistant Commissioner for Patents,